7/2/72

Dear Howard, If, as I hope not, this seems like an avuncular indulgence of the kind some of th more immature have in the past resented, I hope you can understand it is not my intent. This is more a memo for the file than a letter to you. You are the only critic to whom I will send it.

I believe that when I first heard that Cyril had been granted access and would likely be followed by Nichols, my immediate reaction was to say the timing should be noted. Events since then make me more convinced this must be done. There was enough reason then; there is more today. Then coincided with the first overt move in support of McGovern by Reddy; now is when it is clear that the national gungup on what McGovern represents (which is more than the obvious gungup on him personally as a candidate) virtually dominates every voice the people can hear.

Today's Post is full of covert anti-McGovernism, even in its exposure of the dirty thing that was done. There are major articles saying his ship is sunk when he is far and away ahead of everyone; that the machine would rather lose than let him win (ditto for labor); even a nastiness of John Eisenhower on the editorial page. McG does not follow his father's beliefs, inherently McG would abandon " national security", the most basic national interest.

I have not changed my belief that the last thing Teddy now wants is to be President or to run for the office. But look at the position he will be in if there is a legitimate deadlock. Despite everything and not entirely the John carryover, I believe he is probably the most popular single man in the country. Can you conceive that evil forces desiring the end of the change John was seeking and had started could not abide him as candidate or as President? Can you understand that at the convention and during the campaign he will be a major factor, whether or not McGovern gets the nomination, a virtual certainty until a few days ago in my perhaps minority view and still a good possibility in lieu of a certainty?

There is a tremendous national yearning for change. It is represented in the McG phenomenon, his overcoming of the monolithic opposition of all the pols and the press, which began by ignoring him. It is represented by the Wallace vote as well as by his canny attempt to seem to change himself and his real attempt to address issues other than race.

John Kennedy was the greatest hope for change, and he is dead. McGovern is the only hope for change, and the effort to kill him politically is the joint effort of every force in the country except his support. Be he good guy or bad, the single most conspicuous thing about him and his candidacy if that there must be change, if not in the system in the way it works and in its focus and direction.

With all the remotely-possible candidates of both parties except Teddy, I think he has less chance of surving the campaign, the best chance of getting killed. There are enough dedicated nuts. There need not be the possible conspiracy.

So, take a new look at what may be but I think is not likely a coincidence, that Marshall, who has without deviation always done what is against any Kennedy interest, Teddy's or Bobby's or the estate's and family's, picks this particular time for a ploy that can't help but hurt Teddy and his chances of survival and of influence, to let Cyril see this stuff whom he had what? seven earlier months to do it. In considering this, reconsider the selection of the incredible Lattimer and ask is it was Marshall's personal decision or in any sense a wise one or one that would not, necessarily, hurt the Kennedy name and interest. In considering this there is another factor I believe I have never addressed with you: was there any need for this contract be signed? In my view there was not, one of the considerations that compelled me to drop a legally-certain victory in the suit for the name of transfer. So you can understand this, I remind you that the Secret Service has transferred all this stuff to the Kennedy library, to Evelyn Lincoln as its representative at the Archives. The library is <u>part</u> of the Archives, so what purpose was served by the contract? Under the FOI this stuff could have been suppressed in perpetuity. Release would then have been a <u>federal</u> responsibility. Now it is, in effect, a federal decision but a Kennedy responsibility. The distinction and the foresight should be clear. I can think of no other need or purpose in the contract. These are, within the meaning of FOI, ~~personnel~~ medical records. And they have <u>never</u> been out of federal possession, never been in Kennedy possession. Thus also the fiction that they had been in the possession of the silent Kennedys is manufactured, the world led to believe they "returned" this stuff to the gov't. Who would believe none of them ever studied it. I need go no further. IM